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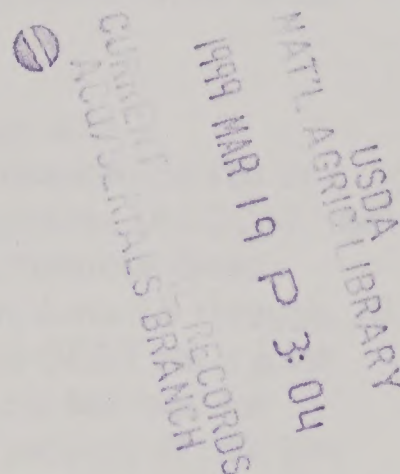
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Livestock and
Seed Division

Items of Interest in Seed Control



Summer 1996

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Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch
Room 209, Building 306, BARC-East
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2325
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JOINT MEETING OF ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFYING AGENCIES, ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED ANALYSTS, AND SOCIETY OF COMMERCIAL SEED TECHNOLOGISTS

Branch Chief James Triplitt, Testing Section Supervisor Richard Payne, and Botanist Susan Maxon represented the Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch (SRTB) at a joint annual meeting of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA), the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST). The meeting was held in Milwaukee, WI, from June 15 through 20, 1996. This was the first time that AOSCA has joined with AOSA and SCST for a joint meeting. Dr. Payne presented a paper entitled, "Development of a Test Method for Identifying Sulfonylurea Herbicide Resistant Soybean Varieties." A synopsis of this test method was described in our Spring 1996 issue.

Among the discussions of particular relevance to seed testing were the American Seed Trade Association's (ASTA) Seed Health Initiative, testing methods for seed count labels, the increasing need for testing methods for native and endangered plant species, and areas for increased collaboration between AOSA and SCST (public and private sector seed testing). There were several requests for seed analyst training to be provided by the SRTB and gratitude expressed for previously held Federal Seed Schools.

Nine proposals for changes to the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds were considered; all nine (with some revisions) were adopted. These proposals, along with supporting evidence, were published in the February 1996 issue of the AOSA Newsletter. As provided in the AOSA Bylaws, these amendments become effective on October 1. These rule changes need to be evaluated for incorporation into the next revision of the Federal Seed Act (FSA) Regulations.

Future annual meetings of AOSA and SCST are scheduled as follows:

1997	June 14-19	Savannah, GA
1998	June 13-18	Boise, ID
1999	June 11-17	Omaha, NE
2000	June 8-16	Ames, IA

Based on the success of the 1996 meeting, the 1999 meeting will again be a joint meeting with AOSCA.

Several former SRTB employees attended the annual meeting:

Miller McDonald, Ohio State University; Wayne Guerke, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Seed Division; Rodney Young, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); Gary Johnson, USDA, Forest Service; Gil Waibel, Colorado Seed Laboratory.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN SEED CONTROL OFFICIALS MEETING

Attendance was up slightly at the annual Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO) meeting held July 13 through 18 in New Orleans, LA. Eric Gates and the staff of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry did an outstanding job in hosting the meeting. Sunday, July 14, Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry

Bob Odom welcomed the group to Louisiana and spoke on agriculture in Louisiana and factors affecting the future of agriculture. Affiliated organizations also reported on their activities. Monday, July 15 was set aside for the four regional seed control associations to meet. Tuesday, AASCO members heard several interesting speakers on subjects dealing with transgenic crops such as herbicide tolerant soybeans, hard seed in alfalfa, kernal bunt, film coatings, Plant Variety Protection (PVP), and accreditation for field certification inspections. Wednesday speakers discussed regulating advertisements, quality assurance in seed testing, the USDA's strategy for invasive and exotic noxious weeds, and the Internet. President Malcolm Sarna (MD) presided at the business meeting Thursday morning. AASCO adopted one minor change to the Recommended Uniform State Seed Law (RUSSL) by adding Georgia to the "signed" list on the arbitration notice. AASCO passed a resolution expressing several concerns about the APHIS draft proposal to implement the ASTA's Seed Health Initiative. Another resolution urged Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to continue to accept official tests to grade United States seed being shipped to Canada. A summary of the regional meetings follows:

North Central States Seed Control Officials Association Meeting

President Bill Brener (WI) presided over this regional meeting. Twelve states were represented plus Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the SRTB. Topics presented by the state officials included verification of herbicide tolerance claims, the possibility of using regional laboratories for specialized testing, testing for kernal bunt, the possibility of using regulatory samples to survey for various diseases including kernal bunt, country of origin labeling, noxious-weed seeds from South America, hilum color in soybeans, tagging alternatives, exchanging violation notices, and the impact of selective sampling on compliance rates. A report on SRTB case work and activities was also given.

One resolution was submitted from this region to AASCO for consideration and was adopted at the AASCO business meeting. In it concern was expressed about the APHIS draft proposal to implement the ASTA's Seed Health Initiative.

Association of Seed Control Officials of the Northeastern States Meeting

Officials from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the SRTB attended the meeting of the Association of Seed Control Officials of the Northeastern States (ASCONES). President Joe Garvey (PA) presided. Each member reported on their activities. The group also discussed grass seed advertisements, the ASTA's Seed Health Initiative, the lack of industry support for some changes to New Jersey's seed regulations, and an Oregon Seed Trade Association resolution asking AASCO to urge its members to retest apparent grass seed germination violations using a tetrazolium test before issuing a stop sale. The officials also discussed the future of ASCONES in view of the inability of several states to participate, and they discussed the meeting to be held with the Atlantic Seedsmen's Association (ASA) in Newport, RI, in October.

Southern Seed Control Officials Association Meeting

President Charles Leamons (TX) presided over the Southern Seed Control Officials Association (SSCOA). Ten states and the SRTB were represented at the meeting. Seed Marketing Specialist Harold Laswell reported on activities of the SRTB and discussed the SRTB's regulatory actions on complaints involving lawn and vegetable seed advertisements. He also explained that the 1994 amendments to the PVP Act did not change Title V of the FSA and presented highlights from a complaint raised by an Arkansas seedsman that feed and/or market grain is being commonly used for seed propagation purposes (referred to as "brown bagging").

Issues that were presented and discussed by the seed control officials during the meeting included determining other crop seed in soybean through the use of hilum color, mail order seed issues, tolerance for prohibited noxious-weed seeds, auditing for seed tonnage and tax purposes, brand name and variety name matters, AOSA position statements regarding file sample testing and alteration of laboratory reports, the revised Georgia seed law, quality assurance, standardized seed vigor testing, a State's proposal for what was described as "almost but not quite certified" labeling, seed control's role regarding genetically engineered seed, seed health testing, licensing of custom cleaners and processors, educational activities, noxious-weed seeds in bird feed mixtures, karnal bunt, seed mats, and how State noxious weed laws relate to one another. Dennis Brown, recently retired seed control official from Virginia, attended the meeting.

Lee Daughtry (MS) was elected 2nd vice-president and Mary Smith (AR) was elected secretary/treasurer with each to serve a 2-year term. David Buckingham (KY) is 1st vice-president having been appointed when it became necessary for Dale Dubberly (FL) to vacate the position.

The SSCOA also heard from members of ASCONES regarding possible membership by ASCONES states either individually or collectively in SSCOA. ASCONES continuing problems with members not being able to participate in ASCONES meetings and activities prompted this discussion. A clearer picture of the future of ASCONES should emerge following the scheduled October ASCONES meeting in Newport, RI, with the ASA.

Western Association of Seed Control Officials Meeting

President Steve Burningham (UT) presided at the Western Association of Seed Control Officials (WASCO) meeting. Seed control officials from Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, the SRTB, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada were present. An SRTB member presented a short session on submitting and handling FSA complaints. Besides members reporting on their activities, WASCO discussed future meeting sites, RUSSL, the WASCO constitution and bylaws, and the WASCO directory. The group also discussed mixtures and blends, an Oregon Seed Trade Association resolution on the use of tetrazolium tests to verify germination violations, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's policy on tests used to grade United States certified seed shipped into Canada. WASCO passed and forwarded to AASCO a resolution asking the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to develop a system that continues to recognize tests of United State Government and State seed laboratories to grade United States seed shipped to Canada.

VISITORS FROM UZBEKISTAN

A 10-member delegation from Uzbekistan recently met with Dr. Richard Payne of the SRTB. The members of the delegation are responsible for developing national seed legislation for Uzbekistan. Various aspects of the FSA were discussed. Of special interest was the relationship between the SRTB and seed companies with regard to enforcement of the FSA. The delegation was also interested in the regulatory enforcement relationship between the individual States and the SRTB.

RESULTS OF 1995 TRUENESS-TO-VARIETY PLANTINGS AND 1996 UPDATE

The following table shows the results of all tests started or completed in 1995. The results include the red fescue, lettuce, and onion grow-outs.

Red fescue trials were conducted at the Maryland Agricultural Research Facility in Upper Marlboro. The plants were started last fall in a greenhouse and transplanted into space planted and replicated field plots. The results were very intriguing. No test sample labeled to be "Pennlawn" red fescue resembled the check sample of that variety. Most of the test plants were coarser and more robust, with wider and larger leaves, and headed out taller than the check plants. Check plants of this old variety were all uniformly dark green with refined leaves and habit.

Dr. Kevin Morris, a turf expert, told us that the name "Boreal" is often applied to any common red fescue from Canada. We found all "Boreal" samples (including the check) to be coarse and variable. In addition, most samples labeled as the variety "Flyer," including the checks, were quite coarse and variable. Dr. Morris described "Flyer" as one of the first "improved" red fescue varieties after "Pennlawn."

The lettuce and onion trials, which began last fall at Gainesville, FL, were also completed. Dr. Cantliffe conducted the trials along with graduate student Puffy Soundy. The samples we tested of "White Lisbon White Bunching" onion were of two distinct genotypes; some were bulbing, others were not. There were different genotypes among the samples labeled as "Iceberg" or "Burpee's Iceberg" lettuce. Some of the samples formed heads while others did not.

We recently evaluated summer squash trials conducted at Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA. Many problem samples were identified. Regulatory case work is now underway for the mislabeled samples. We recently transplanted tomatoes to 200 field plots at Upper Marlboro, MD. Field trials, for 1996, of various kinds are underway at several locations.

Incidentally, 1996 trueness-to-variety (TTV) field trials of celery were canceled because of too few test samples.

1995 RESULTS FOR THE TTV PROGRAM

SITE	CROP	SAMPLES TESTED	APPARENTLY MISLABELED	PERCENT MISLABELED ^{1/}
Beltsville	sweet corn	264	7	2.7
	tomato	2		
	watermelon	1	1	100
	cowpea	1		
	<i>Bromus</i>	1		
	sorghum-sudangrass	1		
	garden bean	1		
Florida	onion	69	5	7.2
	lettuce	168	11	6.5
Georgia	winter wheat	138	6	4.3
	barley	125	2	1.6
	rye	263	13	4.9
	oat	20		
Kansas	winter wheat	228	8	3.5
	barley	69		
	emmer	1		
	spelt	6		
	triticale	19	6	31.6
Louisiana	eggplant	52	8	15.4
	broccoli	73	2	2.7
	cabbage	88	10	11.4
	cauliflower	56	8	14.3
	brussels sprouts	43	11	25.6
Maryland	pepper	116	17	14.7
	Red fescue	75	32	42.7
South Dakota	oat	99	1	1.0
	wheat	87	3	3.4
Virginia	field corn	297	6	2.0

^{1/} Apparent mislabelings divided by the number of samples tested.

FEDERAL SEED PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ON DISK

The SRTB distributes paper copies of several publications to interested parties. Computer floppy disks of the following publications can also be sent:

FSA, FSA Regulations, State Noxious-Weed Seed Requirements Recognized in the Administration of the FSA, Treated Seed Requirements (this publication will be available at a future date), and Items of Interest in Seed Control.

If you request any of these, please tell us what size floppy disk you require:

1.4M 3-1/2 inch High Density (DS/HD)
1.2M 5-1/4 inch High Density (DS/HD)
720K 3-1/2 inch Double Density (DS/DD)
360K 5-1/4 inch Double Density (DS/DD)

All publications are in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 format. If you want a different format, we can probably convert it, but the look of the document might change. For instance, ASCII format may change spacing and page numbering. Let us know what format you prefer.

SIGN UP NOW FOR SPRING SEED SCHOOL

A 1-week Federal Seed School is scheduled to be held in Beltsville, MD, April 21 through 25, 1997. Topics will include purity rules, identification of species requested by participants, and germination testing of kinds covered by the FSA. Other topics requested by participants will also be included as scheduling allows.

If you or members of your laboratory are interested in attending this Seed School, please complete and return the pre-registration form to us by November 1, 1996. (You may photocopy the enclosed form.) You are encouraged to indicate any topics or seed testing problems you would like to have covered during the Seed School. You are also asked to set aside problem samples that you have encountered in both purity and germination and forward them to the SRTB's Testing Section well in advance of the Seed School.

Please note that seed analysts from non-government seed laboratories will be charged a fee of \$32 per day payable to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Total charge for the 4 1/2-day seed school will be \$144. Please do not send your check until we confirm your enrollment.

Due to the hands-on nature of the topics and one-on-one attention from the instructors, enrollment will be limited. Because pre-registration usually outnumbers enrollment space, pre-registration forms received after the deadline may not be considered. In selecting participants, consideration will be given to having representation from as many laboratories as possible.

Laboratories that submit pre-registration forms will be notified of final enrollment and schedule of topics. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Richard Payne at 301-504-8089 (Fax 301-504-8098; e-mail Richard_C_Payne@usda.gov).

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
FEDERAL SEED SCHOOL
Beltsville, Maryland
April 21-25, 1997

Laboratory name:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Name(s) and seed testing experience of those planning to attend:

Name(s)

Experience

Please indicate species that are of greatest interest to you and problems encountered:

Purity:

Identification:

Germination:

Other:

RETURN THIS FORM BY NOVEMBER 1, 1996, TO:

Dr. Richard C. Payne
USDA, AMS, LS Division
Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch
Room 213, Building 306, BARC-East
Beltsville, MD 20705-2325
(Fax 301-504-8098)

RYEGRASS FLUORESCENCE LIST

This is the ryegrass fluorescence list from the National Grass Variety Review Board.
Please note that Riviera II has been added to the perennial ryegrass list.

<u>Perennial Ryegrass Variety Name</u>	<u>Percent Varietal Fluorescence</u>	<u>Perennial Ryegrass Variety Name</u>	<u>Percent Varietal Fluorescence</u>	<u>Annual Ryegrass Variety Name</u>	<u>Percent Varietal Fluorescence</u>
89-90	2.15%	Gator	0.88%	SS-33-DS ¹	3.10%
89-666 ¹	1.57%	Greenland	1.20%	Seville	0.33%
246	0.27%	Grimalda	2.00%	Shining Star	0.10%
856	0.87%	Imagine ¹	1.31%	Stallion Select	2.37%
Accent	0.56%	Koos 90-2 ¹	3.85%	Statesman	1.27%
Accolade	4.83%	Legacy	0.37%	Target	3.28%
Accord	4.08%	Lindsay	1.72%	Tonga	11.53%
Achiever	0.93%	Linn	5.00%	Top Hat ¹	0.77%
Advent	0.14%	Lowgrow	1.31%	Topeka	2.34%
Agresso	2.00%	Magic	1.21%	Vantage	2.19%
All Star	0.47%	Manhattan II	0.65%	Wizard	2.57%
Allaire II	1.15%	Morningstar	0.87%	Yorktown III	1.42%
APM	0.59%	Mulligan	1.86%		
Assure	0.72%	Navajo	0.37%	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Bedford	1.40%	NightHawk	1.39%	<u>Ryegrass</u>	<u>Varietal</u>
Blazer III	1.18%	Nobility	3.26%	<u>Variety Name</u>	<u>Fluorescence</u>
Boardwalk	2.72%	Nomad	1.03%		
Brightstar	1.79%	Nova	1.00%	Florida 80	98.89%
Buccaneer	2.01%	Omni	0.51%	Grazer	99.78%
Caliente	0.74%	Pageant ¹	2.22%	Jackson	98.80%
Calypso	1.29%	Palmer	1.04%	Marshall	96.00%
Calypso II	0.47%	Palmer II	1.51%	Rio ¹	98.97%
Cathedral	0.85%	Patriot II	0.42%	Surrey	98.91%
Charisma	2.39%	Pegasus ¹	2.41%	TAM 90	98.45%
Cutter	1.65%	Pennant	0.50%		
Dandy	2.00%	Pleasure	1.42%		
Delaware Dwarf	0.61%	PR8820	0.79%	¹ Experimental Designation	
Derby Supreme	2.85%	Prelude	1.72%	and/or Variety	
Dillon	4.14%	Prelude II	2.25%		
Divine ¹	3.09%	Prizm	0.71%		
Edge	1.73%	Quickstart	0.18%		
Elegance	1.51%	Regency	0.99%		
Elf	0.75%	Repell	0.33%		
Elite	4.84%	Repell II	1.56%		
Envy	0.22%	Reveille	2.00%		
Equal	1.98%	Riviera	0.58%		
Evening Shade	1.17%	Riviera II	1.08%		
Excel	1.53%	Rodeo II	2.47%		
Express	1.00%	SR 4100	0.37%		
Fiesta II	1.14%	SR 4200	0.34%		

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FEDERAL SEED ACT CASES SETTLED

Listed below are cases settled under the FSA from April 1 through June 30, 1996. All cases were settled administratively. Under the administrative settlement procedure, the SRTB and the firms agreed to settle the cases for the amount specified with the firms neither admitting nor denying the charges:

- Beachner Seed Company, St. Paul, KS, has paid \$2250 for a case involving seven shipments. The alleged violations, while not the same for all shipments, were false labeling as to purity and germination percentages, failure to show required labeling for a seed component in a mixture, mislabeling of noxious-weed seeds, and failure to keep required records. Seed regulatory officials in Alabama, Kentucky, and West Virginia cooperated in the initial sampling and inspection.
- Schallert Seed, Schallert, MO, has paid \$700 for a case involving two shipments. The alleged violations, while not the same for both shipments, were failure to label the presence of noxious-weed seeds and to keep required records, and false pure-seed labeling. Seed regulatory officials in Kentucky cooperated in the initial sampling and inspection.
- Seedway, Inc., Hall, NY, has paid \$900 for a case involving two shipments. The alleged violations, while not the same for both shipments were failure to label the presence of noxious-weed seeds and keep required records and false germination and weed seed labeling. Seed regulatory officials in Maryland and Virginia cooperated in the initial sampling and inspection.
- Smith Seed Services, Halsey, OR, has paid \$5500 for a case involving 10 shipments. The alleged violations, while not the same for all shipments were false germination and noxious-weed seed labeling and failure to label the presence of noxious-weed seeds and keep required records. Seed regulatory officials in Alabama, Maryland, and Virginia cooperated in the initial sampling and inspection.

PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION CERTIFICATES

A list of issued and expired PVP certificates for the period of April 2, through August 5, 1996, follows. Please note that a column has been added to show those varieties that are under the amended PVP Act.

Additions and Deletions
of
Plant Variety Protection
Certificates

PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION CERTIFICATES
(Issued April 2, 1996, through August 5, 1996)

KIND VARIETY	APPLICANT	TITLE 5 (NO. OF 1994 GEN.)	PVPA	KIND VARIETY	APPLICANT	TITLE 5 (NO. OF 1994 GEN.)	PVPA
ALFALFA Cut'N'Graze	University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.	Y		CORN, FIELD LH250	Holden's Foundation Seeds, Inc.		
BARLEY B3213	Busch Agricultural Resources, Inc.	Y		LH252	Holden's Foundation Seeds, Inc.		
B4311	Busch Agricultural Resources, Inc.	Y		LH260	Holden's Foundation Seeds, Inc.		
B7098	Busch Agricultural Resources, Inc.	Y		MQ306	United AgriSeeds, Inc.	Y	Y
Baronesse	Peterson Seed Company, Inc.	Y		OQ201	United AgriSeeds, Inc.	Y	Y
Falcon	Alberta Agriculture Research Institute	Y (3)		OQ301	United AgriSeeds, Inc.	Y	Y
Logan	NDSU Research Foundation	Y (3)		COTTON			
BEAN, GARDEN Matador	Asgrow Seed Company			Buffalo	Sally Vreseis Fox	Y (*)	Y
Rushmore	Asgrow Seed Company			DP 5432	Delta and Pine Land Company	Y	Y
CLOVER, RED Cherokee				COWPEA			
				Kunde Zulu	Jeffrey D. Ehlers	Y (1)	Y
				MARIGOLD			
				Polynema	Fysicon (The Netherlands)		Y
				OAT			
				Belle	Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station	Y (2)	Y
				Milton	Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station	Y (3)	
CLOVER, WHITE Will				ONION			
				IBEX	Shamrock Seed Company, Inc.		Y
				Mission Star	Harris Moran Seed Company		Y
				Red Robins PRR 95	A.M. Dessert and B.M. Domingo		Y
				Red Star	Petoseed Company, Inc.		Y
				PEANUT			
				127	AgraTech Seeds Inc.	Y (3)	Y
				David	State of Israel/Ministry of Agriculture,	Y (3)	Y
					Agricultural Research Organization, The Volcani Center		
				Georgia Green	University of Georgia	Y (3)	Y
				VC-1	Research Foundation, Inc.		
					AgraTech Seeds Inc.	Y (3)	Y

(*) No limit to the number of generations of certified seed beyond breeders seed.

(Issued April 2, 1996, through August 5, 1996)

(*) No limit to the number of generations of certified seed beyond breeders seed.

PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION CERTIFICATES
(Issued April 2, 1996, through August 5, 1996)

KIND VARIETY	APPLICANT	TITLE 5 (NO. OF GEN.)	PVPA	KIND VARIETY	APPLICANT	TITLE 5 (NO. OF GEN.)	PVPA
WHEAT, DURUM Munich	NDSU Research Foundation	Y (3)	Y				

(*) No limit to the number of generations of certified seed beyond breeders seed.

(Expired April 2, 1996, through August 5, 1996)

(*) No limit to the number of generations of certified seed beyond breeders seed.

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